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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yukihiro NAKASAKA et al.

Group Art Unit: 3747

Application No.: 10/058,305

Examiner: H. Huynh

Filed: January 30, 2002

Docket No.: 111568

For: CONTROL APPARATUS FOR MULTI-CYLINDER INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE AND CONTROL METHOD

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the December 9, 2005 Office Action, Applicants request reconsideration of this application. Claims 19, 22-24, 35 and 40-50 are pending.

Applicants thank Examiner Huynh for the courtesies extended to Applicants' undersigned attorney during the March 1, 2006 personal interview. It was agreed at the interview that the pending claims are patentable over the Atago et al. reference for the reasons set forth below. Applicants' discussion of the substance of the interview is set forth below.

Claims 19, 22-24, 35 and 40-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,286,478 to Atago et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed. As was agreed at the interview, Atago et al. does not disclose or suggest the combinations of features recited in the independent claims of this application.

Atago et al. discloses determining an air-fuel ratio for each cylinder (see col. 9, line 63 - col. 10, line 4 and col. 10, lines 52-67) and then determining the air flow based on that